

RIVER TOO HIGH

LORD ROBERTS'S INFANTRY DELAYED AT THE RHENOSTER.

Water is Deep and the Soldiers Must Wait Until a Temporary Bridge is Constructed.

DISPOSITION OF THE TROOPS

BRITISH IN CRESCENT-LIKE FORMATION ACROSS THE FREE STATE.

Hamilton's Cavalry Thirty Miles from the Vaal and the Center Ten Miles Further South.

BURGHERS TAKING VOTE

MAY DECIDE WITHIN A FORTNIGHT TO QUIT FIGHTING.

Nothing Known as to What is Transpiring at Pretoria—Movements of Gen. Buller's Forces.

LONDON, May 25, 3:35 a. m.—Lord Roberts's infantry advance is delayed at the Rhenoster river for a day or two by the depth of the stream, which is not fordable. The banks, which are precipitous, are forty feet high. A pontoon and temporary bridge constructions are under way. The railway has not been damaged to any great extent between Kroonstad and Rhenoster. The Transvaalers have offered the Free State by destroying their splendid bridges when retreating to Kroonstad. They are trained from doing this on the retreat to Rhenoster, but now they are destroying the railroad and bridges almost completely north of the Rhenoster.

The British troops are in the form of a crescent. Gen. Ian Hamilton's mounted men are within thirty miles of the Vaal. The center of the crescent is about forty miles from the Vaal. Seventy or eighty miles to the left Lord Methuen is advancing up the Vaal.

Boer telegrams say that three thousand British, with ten guns, are near Vreendfort, which is close to the Vaal and close to Parys. One correspondent refers to the advance as a "promenade." Another describes it as a "Boer hunt." The Free State is pictured as "bolting like horses" at the first sight of the British. The latter, according to one writer, do not even find women and children, as the fleeing farmers take their families with them, in consequence of the reports current among the Transvaalers that the British kidnap all children over twelve years of age. The Boer rear guard was composed of Huisanen, to whom was committed the task of destroying the bridges. They also looted freely.

What the Boers are doing is an absolute mystery. The embargo of news out of Pretoria for the last twenty-four hours has been complete. Such shreds of information as the correspondents at Lourenço Marques have picked up do not illuminate the Boer designs and dispositions further than that the movement toward Lydenburg continues and that a referendum on the question of continuing the war is going on among the Boer fighting men. It may be a fortnight before the results of this singular vote are fully before the Transvaal government. If the English view of Boer discouragement is one-half right, the Boers will vote to quit.

The Lourenço Marques correspondent of the Times, telegraphing Wednesday, says: "According to a private letter, smuggled through from Pretoria, President Kruger now favors surrender, on the ground that a continuance of the war would ruin the property of the burghers. He has thrown upon the commandants the issue of what course to pursue. Civilian prisoners released at Pretoria report extraordinary activity during the last two weeks on the railway from Pretoria to Pietersburg. As many as twenty trains are running daily, and it is possible that a large portion have been used to move supplies northward for safety."

In Natal General Durnell's volunteers occupied Mount Prospect on Monday. Lord Dundonald's cavalry is at Firmonts, near Ingogo. His infantry rests at Schoenheide. The names are all of fateful memory in the first Boer war. The British face Laing's neck, where the Boers, through the range glasses of the British, are occasionally visible. In the march across the Bergsberg all the farms except one were found vacant. A temporary bridge has been finished at Waschbank. Trains now go to Dundee. General Buller said the best way to celebrate the Queen's birthday was to repair the railway to Newcastle, and every man was put to work.

Eari De la Warr was supposed to have been captured at the time of the disaster that befell the squadron of Bethune's horse, contrived to escape. He lay all night with a wounded leg behind an ant heap, reaching the camp next day.

As the railway is now open north of Mafeking, an abundance of provisions is entering the town, plenty of flour and oat, and a few luxuries. The telegraph messages will probably come from Mafeking direct over the northern route in a day or two.

South Africa has another infliction. An extraordinary issue of the Gazette, at Durban, announced the death of an East Indian from the bubonic plague. The government has put into force the most stringent preventive measures, but fears are expressed that the pestilence may get among the troops.

The Transvaal National Bank has suspended gold payments, under authorization from the government, requiring the acceptance of bank notes. The institution has large assets, apparently, in London. One hundred and fifty thousand pounds were seized at Cape Town and £25,000 at Durban. Mr. Lucan, chairman of the London committee of the bank says: "The Transvaal government is laying hands on every ounce of gold it can find in the country. The government has nothing to lose and everything to gain thereby. Financial circles here are interested in many indirect ways, especially as to whether the Transvaal's I. O. U.'s will be redeemed."

The Birmingham Argus, which keeps in pretty close touch with the Colonial Office, says: "We understand that a general election will be ordered as soon as Lord Roberts obtains an additional success. The

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Governor Roosevelt Not Yet Ready to Take Action on the Application for Extradition.

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Five Counts in a Charge on Which Neely is Accused of Not Accounting for Over \$65,000.

KNIFE APPLIED BY BRISTOW

EXPENSES REDUCED IN CUBAN POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

Neely Reported to Have Been Trying to Establish a Kingdom in the Isle of Pines.

NEW YORK, May 24.—The hearing to-day before Governor Roosevelt at Oyster Bay of the application for the extradition of C. F. W. Neely to Cuba was held in private. Only the Governor, his secretary and United States District Attorney Burnett, representing the government, and John B. Lindsay, counsel for Neely, being present.

After the third session the Governor came out of his library and made a brief statement to the newspaper men. He said that before he would take any final action in the matter he would confer with the State attorney general, probably on Saturday, on the questions of law raised by counsel as to his power to grant the requisition papers. This power, the Governor said, was conceded, was vested by the Constitution in the Governor.

LAST SORTIE FROM MAFEKING.

Lady Sarah Wilson Accompanied the Troops on a Bicycle.

MAFEKING, May 17, via Kimberley.—The British relieving force occupied this town at 9 o'clock. The garrison immediately moved out with twelve-pounders and pom-poms and attacked McMillin's laager. The Boers resisted bravely for half an hour, then fled in disorder, leaving their tents, wagons and impedimenta. The British then occupied all the Boer positions.

Colonel Baden-Powell gave the garrison an opportunity of revenging themselves, using the relief force as a reserve and as supporters. Men and women swarmed to the houseposts, and Lady Sarah Wilson, on a bicycle, accompanied the troops as far as the Boer lines.

The town guard formed up in the market square for the march past the relief force. There was immense enthusiasm over the fact that the relief of the place was accomplished by colonials.

REITS LEAVES PRETORIA WITH TREASURE.

CAPE TOWN, May 24.—Bar gold to the value of \$75,000 has been sent by rail from Pretoria to Lourenço Marques. State Secretary Reitz traveled on the same train.

BROOKE'S MARRIAGE DECREE.

Catholic Cubans Ask Governor General Wood to Modify It.

HAVANA, May 24.—Monsignor Donato Sbarretti, bishop of Havana, accompanied by a number of priests representing the clergy and by a lay commission representing the lay Catholics of the diocese, have presented to General Wood petitions signed by 31,000 people requesting that the decree issued by General Brooke while military governor of Cuba, ordering that only civil marriages should be considered lawful, may be so altered as to allow marriages celebrated according to the rites of any religion to be considered lawful provided a record of the ceremony is duly handed in by the church or religious body for civil registration within thirty days.

Mr. Sbarretti delivered an address, in the course of which he contended that General Brooke's decree was contrary to the spirit of religious liberty and to the freedom of conscience professed by the American people and guaranteed by the treaty of Paris. "The decree of General Brooke," said the bishop, "created and maintains a useless conflict between the civil and the ecclesiastical law, and good Catholics must consider it an imposition, forcing on them as it does an empty ceremony. The decree was a gratuitous attempt to restrict liberty, and it is the direct cause of embarrassment and of increased expense to Catholics when contracting marriages."

The probability is that the decree will be repealed sufficiently to allow the marriage ceremony to be legally performed by any clergyman in regular orders.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Representative Fitzgerald, of Massachusetts, to-day introduced a resolution reciting that General Brooke, while governor general of Cuba, had prohibited ecclesiastical marriages and ordered that civil marriages be recognized as the only legal form of contracts for marriage; that this was a violation of the Constitution and against established custom; and directing the secretary of war to revoke the order and to give instructions for full religious toleration in Cuba while it is under the jurisdiction of the United States.

MOB FOILED BY SHERIFF.

Negro Rapist Saved from Summary Punishment by a Ruse.

ATHENS, O., May 24.—A mob attacked the jail to-night, bent on lynching Richard Gordon, a negro rapist. The mob, however, was foiled by a clever ruse arranged by Sheriff Porter, the prisoner having been removed to the courthouse in anticipation of an attack upon the jail. There were about 500 men in the mob, which came from the western part of the town and surrounded the jail. While the crowd was battering the barred doors of the jail Judge Wood pushed his way through it, and in a voice that could be heard above the din urged the mob to allow the law to take its course. He assured them that Gardner was not in the jail. A committee of five then stepped forward and asked to be shown through the jail, which was done, and they were convinced Gardner was not there. A few minutes later a carriage was seen to drive away from the rear of the jail and the mob pulled in pursuit, but the horses galloped quickly away. It was only a ruse, however. Gardner was in the courthouse, handcuffed to the sheriff.

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fairs of Cuba. Therefore it is quite right that Washington should give an account of the management of the Cuban postal department to the American and Cuban peoples. President McKinley's attitude in deciding that the amount stolen must be returned to the Cuban people is an act of justice, not of generosity."

The Hawaiian Postal System.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—The third assistant postmaster general has prepared a letter of comprehensive instructions to the inspectors in charge of inaugurating the United States postal system in Hawaii. The instructions refer to finance, stamp supplies and accounts, registry system, special delivery and classification of mail matter. The regulations regard the postal finances are specific and are given in great detail. Honolulu is made the general depository for the islands, and this office in turn will remit to San Francisco.

IN BEHALF OF CHINESE.

Health Board Asked to Give Reason for Plague Quarantine.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 24.—Judge Morrow to-day issued an order directing the Board of Health of the city to show cause why an injunction should not be granted restraining that body from interfering with the freedom and liberties of the Chinese of this city and those desiring to leave it.

An embargo was placed on the Chinese and Japanese residents of the city on the ground that the plague was prevalent, and it is expected the proceedings commenced to-day will show conclusively whether or not the disease is present in this city. The order is made returnable to-morrow.

TWO CONVENTION DATES

KENTUCKY DEMOCRATS MEET AT FRANKFORT AND LEXINGTON.

Beckham Will Have Opposition—Blackburn's Open Letter Excites Unfavorable Comment.

FRANKFORT, Ky., May 24.—The Democratic state executive committee held a meeting here this afternoon and issued a call for two conventions. The first will be held at Louisville June 14, for the purpose of selecting delegates to the Democratic national convention. The other will be held at Lexington July 15, and at this convention a Democratic candidate for Governor will be nominated. The committee was in executive session over two hours, discussing the question whether one or two conventions should be held and the wording of the official call and other matters. This was rendered more interesting by the open address issued by Senator Blackburn, in which he took a position against the policy of the party managers in some parts of the State in excluding from participation Hardin's friends and other men who had bolted the ticket last fall, and other matters of this character. Governor Beckham's friends, it is understood, favored only one convention, but to be held the last week in June, but the proposition for two conventions carried by a majority of one. The call is wide open, as suggested by Senator Blackburn, and invites all known Democrats who pledge their support to the ticket and platform in November to participate. There was a great deal of discussion among the leaders as to the proposition of Blackburn and others regarding proposed changes in the state platform with reference to the election law and other things, but not enough to give a definite idea of what the state convention will do on this subject.

WANTED THE ISLE OF PINES.

Neely Was Negotiating for a Little Kingdom of His Own.

CHICAGO, May 24.—The Record's Havana correspondent says: "One of the fondest schemes of Charles F. W. Neely was one that contemplated buying the Isle of Pines, the island south of Cuba, considered by many to be part of the United States territory according to the treaty of Paris. Neely started a company here last fall for the purpose of securing control of the valuable part of the island, with the object of colonizing it as a United States possession. Interested in him were Major Ladd, treasurer of the island of Cuba; General Caffee, Major Ducker, Mr. Hake, of Chicago, and it is said, many prominent politicians in the United States. Options were secured on 100,000 acres and agents were engaged to make negotiations for the major portion of the remaining 400,000. Neely's arrest has killed the scheme. The options expired last week and \$5,000 is forfeited. "It is a strange coincidence that to-day General Wood placed two inspectors in Major Ladd's office for the examination of his accounts. Those inside tell your correspondent that this is in accordance with the investigation in connection with the handling of the funds of the island. It is said many government officials here held stock in the company."

"Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow appointed to-day George B. Buck, an Indian discharging officer of the department of posts at a salary of \$2,000, discontinuing the office of superintendent, held by Carter, whose salary was \$2,500. Disbursements will be made the same as in the army. Only \$4 in 'unexpended' stamps was found in the office. No trace was found of Neely's ledger, which probably has been destroyed. Inspectors discovered to-day a shortage in Neely's account outside the amount supposed to have been taken in stamps, but it will probably not raise the estimated defalcation of \$100,000. Evidence of Neely's guilt is accumulating, and probably there will be several counts against him."

CUTTING DOWN EXPENSES.

Bristow Abolishing Officers in the Cuban Postal Department.

HAVANA, May 24.—Mr. Bristow, acting director general of posts, to-day abolished the solicitor's bureau, appointing in its place a law clerk, with one stenographer, and thus saving \$2,700 a year. General Wood has ordered that every department of the island be thoroughly overhauled. The auditors are now dealing with the treasury and with the North American Trust Company. Later they will deal with the custom house. There is no suggestion that frauds are suspected in connection with any of these departments or institutions, but General Wood feels that the public desires the most complete investigation of all Cuban accounts.

Justice, Not Generosity.

HAVANA, May 24.—The Patria, reverting to the postal fraud, observes: "The Washington government entirely controls the af-

VICTORIA'S DAY

JOYFUL CELEBRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

Her Majesty's Birthday Made the Occasion of Unique and Enthusiastic Displays of Patriotism.

MESSAGE FROM MCKINLEY

AND REPLY TO CONGRATULATIONS IN BEHALF OF THE QUEEN.

National Bazaar for Assistance of War Sufferers Opened by the Princess of Wales.

LOVING CUP FOR LIPTON

PRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR CHOATE, WHO MADE A SPEECH.

Fellacious Reply by Sir Thomas—Hygienic Feature of German Meat Inspection Bill Eliminated.

LONDON, May 24, 10:15 p. m.—Under the stimulus of the relief of Mafeking and Lord Roberts's rapid and successful progress, the Queen's birthday has been celebrated throughout the empire with unique and almost unprecedented rejoicings. The two-fold nature of the celebrations gave the occasion unusual brilliancy. In London to-day and in the provincial towns there was a tri-ocular eruption. Every private house was decorated with miniature union jacks, and the picturesque carnival procession a mile long of cars emblematic of the war paraded the northern suburbs of London. Torchlight processions and reviews in the garrison towns, etc., were witnessed throughout the country. The school children had a holiday, and at most places there was a partial suspension of business.

The West End of London to-night was brilliantly illuminated, and thousands crowded the streets, wearing patriotic favors.

In the House of Commons to-day the government leader, A. J. Balfour, announced that Lord Salisbury would consider a proposal to appoint a national thanksgiving day, with a suitable form of prayer, in acknowledgment of God's vouchsafing victory to the British arms.

Among the incidents of the day was the presentation by William Waldorf Astor to the town of Maldenhead of a polished five-pounder to be placed in the park. The weapon was drawn to the park to-day in the presence of 5,000 people, where it was formally accepted by the mayor on behalf of the town, after which a royal salute was fired.

From the Queen and Kipling.

NEW YORK, May 24.—The fifth annual dinner of the British Schools and Universities Club was given to-night at the Holland House. Letters were read from the Queen, the Prince of Wales, Joseph Chamberlain, Earl of Rosebery, the Duke of Argyll and Admiral Dorey, Admiral Philip and Whitelaw Reid. The president of the club proposed a toast to the Queen, the President of the United States and the Prince of Wales, which were drunk by the guests.

The Queen's message to the club was as follows: "The Queen sincerely thanks you for your kind message of loyalty and good will."

Rudyard Kipling sent this: "Good luck to you and yourselves and the rest of us everywhere."

Congratulations from McKinley.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Secretary Hay has sent a cable message to Ambassador Choate, at London, asking him to "convey, through appropriate channels, the congratulations and best wishes of the President to her Majesty, the Queen, on the occasion of her birthday."

LONDON, May 24.—Queen Victoria has applied to McKinley's congratulations in a gracious message of thanks.

At Port Tampa.

PORT TAMPA, Fla., May 24.—Queen Victoria's birthday was celebrated here by her Majesty's subjects and many American citizens to-day. The shipping in the harbor was decorated with bunting, and salutes were fired. An interesting feature in connection with the event was the dedication of a palm tree to her Majesty in the botanical gardens.

British Flag Displayed.

NEW YORK, May 24.—The shipping in the harbor was gaily dressed with bunting to-day in honor of the anniversary of Queen Victoria's birthday. The union jack was floating above the British consulate's office, but the office itself was closed to-day. The British flag was displayed in many places about the city.

Banquet at Santiago De Cuba.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, May 24.—The English colony in Santiago city gave an elaborate banquet this evening in honor of the Queen's birthday.

FOR AID OF WAR SUFFERERS.

National Bazaar Opened by the Princess of Wales.

LONDON, May 24.—The Princess of Wales, at Kensington, this afternoon opened the great national bazaar for the aid of the sufferers from the war. The Princess Dolgorouki and the Duchesses of Sutherland and Marlborough escorted the Princess of Wales through the bazaar. The receipts have already exceeded \$50,000.

The stalls are attended by titled persons and the elite of London's society. Empress and Empress of Germany has shown his sympathy for the war sufferers by contributing to the bazaar some royal Dresden china and engravings of pictures painted by his Majesty, bearing the imperial signature and inscribed: "For the national bazaar, 1900, by the Emperor himself."

Two sent a number of his own photographs and bearing a brief sentence in German.

The bazaar, containing upward of seventy stalls, representing most of the regiments now in service in South Africa, is arranged in streets and forms an immense emporium containing every conceivable

article that can be offered for sale. It is hoped to realize £50,000 from the undertaking. The Princess of Wales after making a tour of the bazaar officiated as a sales woman for some time at the Household Cavalry stall. The naval stall is attracting much attention. It is filled with models, naval implements, relics of the siege of Ladysmith and books signed by Kipling.

CHOATE AND LIPTON.

The Ambassador and the Sporty Sir Thomas Make Speeches.

LONDON, May 24.—At a banquet given this evening at the Hotel Cecil, in London, to Sir Thomas Lipton, Joseph H. Choate, United States ambassador, presented to Sir Thomas the loving cup subscribed for by the American admirers of the owner of the Shamrock. Mr. Choate, in the course of the presentation speech, thus summed up the relations of England with America: "We are friends, to begin with, and will always continue so. Yet no one is foolish enough to suppose that our friendship will interfere with our rivalry. What we have got to look to is that our rivalry does not interfere with our friendship. If the qualities exhibited by Sir Thomas Lipton could be brought into all the commercial, athletic and diplomatic controversies of England and America we might be sure that the peace which has so long prevailed between the two countries would not be broken."

After paying a glowing tribute to Sir Thomas Lipton's sportsmanship Mr. Choate said: "This gift, Sir Thomas, carries with it the good will of thousands of Americans, who love a gallant champion and a gallant loser, happily united, sir, in you, who have so nobly borne defeat. We hope you are ready to meet us again."

Sir Thomas Lipton, who was evidently much affected, said in the course of his reply: "The recollection of American kindness will remain with me while memory lasts. I know that to this loving cup I have got to take to Sandy Hook the best and fastest yacht the world has ever seen, but it is not without hope that this is within the range of possibilities."

"I am well aware that, to produce such a yacht, the best British brains and mechanism must be combined. I think I can procure it. I certainly intend to try again, and I feel sure that if I should have the pleasure to succeed, it would be a kindness and courtesy will be shown to Americans by Britishers that the Americans are showing me when the Americans come over and attempt to regain the cup. Although the brotherhood which I have experienced is more precious than any wealth can command, I hope I am not expected to be contented with this cup." [Laughter and applause.]

AN AGRARIAN MEASURE.

The Hygienic Features Eliminated from the Meat Inspection Bill.

BERLIN, May 24.—The meat inspection bill, which passed the Reichstag yesterday in the compromise form, had its essential hygienic features eliminated owing to the chamberlain's influence at work in the chamber. In its final shape it contains no provision for trichinae inspection and none for the inspection of animals slaughtered for family use. These were the two strongest hygienic features of the bill in its original form. Nevertheless the semi-official Berlin Correspondent to-day compliments the majority in the Reichstag, particularly the moderate Agrarians, on its passage in its amended form, claiming that hygienic interests are sufficiently preserved and that incidentally German agriculturists will derive considerable benefit from the measure as it stands.

On the other hand, the leading Agrarian organ, the Deutsche Tages Zeitung, flatly denies that the compromise bill will in any way aid agriculture, and asserts that the permission to import salt meats will be utilized hereafter by the United States to such an extent as to outweigh the prohibition of sausages and canned meats.

The Allgemeine Fleischzeitung, which is the leading organ of the butchers, contends that the bill goes to great length in favoring Agrarian interests, while disregarding the interests of butchers and consumers.

BOXERS DRILLING OPENLY.

Many High Manchus Joining the Sedition Movement at Peking.

SHANGHAI, May 24.—The members of the Chinese secret society known as "Boxers" are now openly drilling at Peking, and many high Manchus, including members of the imperial clan, are joining the movement, which is becoming so threatening to the diplomatic representatives and about to take action. B. J. De Coloman, the Spanish minister and so on of the diplomatic corps, has made a demand on the Tsung Li Yamen (Chinese Foreign Office), couched in the strongest terms, for the immediate suppression of the "Boxers," threatening that otherwise all the powers concerned would land troops in China.

LONDON, May 25.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Tien-Tsin, dated Tuesday, says: "The massacre of the seventy native Catholics at Kao-Lau-Tsun on May 14 is ascribed to the evil attitude of Fakes, the virtual governor of the province of Pe-Chi-Li, who is accused of favoring the 'Boxers.' It is reported that General Yang Fu Tung, who was sent by the viceroy with troops against the 'Boxers' and ordered at an interview with their leaders."

Rhodes to Develop German Africa.

LONDON, May 25.—Cecil Rhodes, Alfred Beit and Julius Wernher, with other South African mining millionaires, are about to start a great scheme to develop German West Africa. The Daily Express, which makes the announcement, asserts that gold, silver, copper and lead have been found in abundance within four hundred miles of Walvisch bay. One hundred thousand pounds will be spent in prospecting and then, if the results warrant the outlay, £2,500,000 will be expended in constructing a railway. Christopher James, a mining expert, who has had experience in Mexico and California, will lead the prospecting expedition, which will leave England in June.

For Defense of Manchuria.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 24.—A plan for the defense of Manchuria has been drawn up. Six fortified posts will be erected.

For the purpose of strategic study Gen. Sacharoff, chief of the Russian general staff, will start for Manchuria at the end of the month, accompanied by eight high Russian officers, to prepare for a possible conflict with Japan.